

homes, and in this area we did rewrite the rules and regulations. They are just now being finalized and will be in effect next month. Now those rules and regulations did need updating, had a lot of complaints and I think this Legislature, by initiating that change, did some very good things there. In 1989, we followed with LB 678 which is before you today. As a part of LB 678, we included funding for Title XX day care services up to the market rate. Title XX individuals are on ADC or are low-income families that are in need of day care assistance through this special program. We did not obviously take up LB 678 last year, but that part of the bill dealing with Title XX was funded in part through the appropriations process last session and we were able to up the reimbursement for Title XX day care which brings us to LB 678 and the committee amendments where we are today. One of the functions of the bill, LB 678, is to set up a coordinating committee for early childhood education and child care. This committee includes a number of representations from different state agencies. One of those neglected in the original draft of the bill was the fire marshal who obviously has a role in inspecting some of these homes. So we would add under the committee amendments, the fire marshal to that committee. We also have in the bill a requirement for minimum annual training for child care providers. It was not specified in the bill and the committee amendments would set that minimum at four hours a year which, of course, is very minimum, but that is what the minimum would be for this legislation under the committee amendments. In addition, an advisory committee to the Department of Social Services is established for family day care rules and regulations. As you recall, we passed the bill two years ago to establish a change in the rules and regulations. They are just about to be rewritten and adopted formally. Still though, those rules and regulations have concern from providers across the state. This advisory committee would be established too on an ongoing basis, have input to the department primarily from providers so that their needs and concerns would be listened to by the department as they further refine those rules and regulations. That's the essence of the committee amendments and I'd move for their adoption, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before proceeding to an amendment to the committee amendments, the Chair is very pleased to announce that Senator Schmit has some special guests in the north balcony, 28 tenth grade students from Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo with their teacher. Would you people please